

Message Text

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FROM USDEL

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TAGS: ESCAP, OCON

SUBJECT: ESCAP 32ND SESSION: PRC/USSR ANIMOSITY OVER ASIAN
TELECOMMUNITY

1. CONTINUOUSLY SIMMERING HOSTILITY BETWEEN USSR AND PRC DELS
AT ESCAP MEETING BROKE INTO OPEN CLASH IN DRAFTING COMMITTEE
OVER USSR DEMAND TO INSERT INTO REPORT OF 32ND SESSION THAT AS
ASIAN POWER USSR ELIGIBLE TO BECOME MEMBER OF ASIAN TELECOMMUNITY.
AFTER LENGTHY WRANGLING BETWEEN SOVIETS AND CHINESE, REPORT
REFLECTS OPPOSING VIEWS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE COMMISSION NOTED THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USSR, WHO, IN SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION
ADOPTING THE CONSTITUTION, STATED THAT IT WOULD PERMIT ALL
COUNTRIES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ESCAP SITUATED IN
THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION, INCLUDING HIS OWN COUNTRY, TO BE
MEMBERS OF THE TELECOMMUNITY. THE COMMISSION ALSO NOTED THE
STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA WHICH DID NOT AGREE
WITH THE STATEMENT OF THE USSR, AS IN THEIR VIEW THE USSR BY
GENERAL RECOGNITION WAS A EUROPEAN COUNTRY AND, THEREFORE, NOT
ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TELECOMMUNITY AS IT WAS NOT
A COUNTRY WITHIN THE ESCAP REGION. THE USSR DELEGATION, HOWEVER
FELT THAT THEIR COUNTRY WAS AS MUCH WITHIN THE ASIA-PACIFIC
REGION AS CHINA. UNQUOTE.

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2. AT CONCLUDING PLENARY SESSION, USSR REP RAISED MATTER AGAIN, THIS TIME SEEKING CLARIFICATION FROM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WHY USSR WAS OMITTED FROM LIST OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES FOR ASIAN TELECOMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP CIRCULATED BY SECRETARIAT. IN RESPONSE EXEC SEE READ CABLE FROM UN HEADQUARTERS CONTAINING LEGAL OPINION THAT USSR NOT REGIONAL MEMBER OF ESCAP. USSR DEL, SUPPORTED BY MONGOLIAN DEL, QUESTIONED THIS VIEW, STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ASIAN RUSSIA TO ASIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, SAID MATTER NEEDS FURTHER STUDY AND URGED SECRETARIAT TO GIVE USSR PARTICIPATION IN ASIAN TELECOMMUNITY FURTHER ATTENTION. PRC REP VOICED VIEW THAT UN HEADQUARTER'S LEGAL OPINION QUITE SATISFACTORY AND MATTER NEEDS NO FURTHER ATTENTION.

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